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ACTION
COMICS
No. 822
FEB 05
Have SUPERMAN and SUPERBOY finally met their MATCH?!
DIRECT SALES
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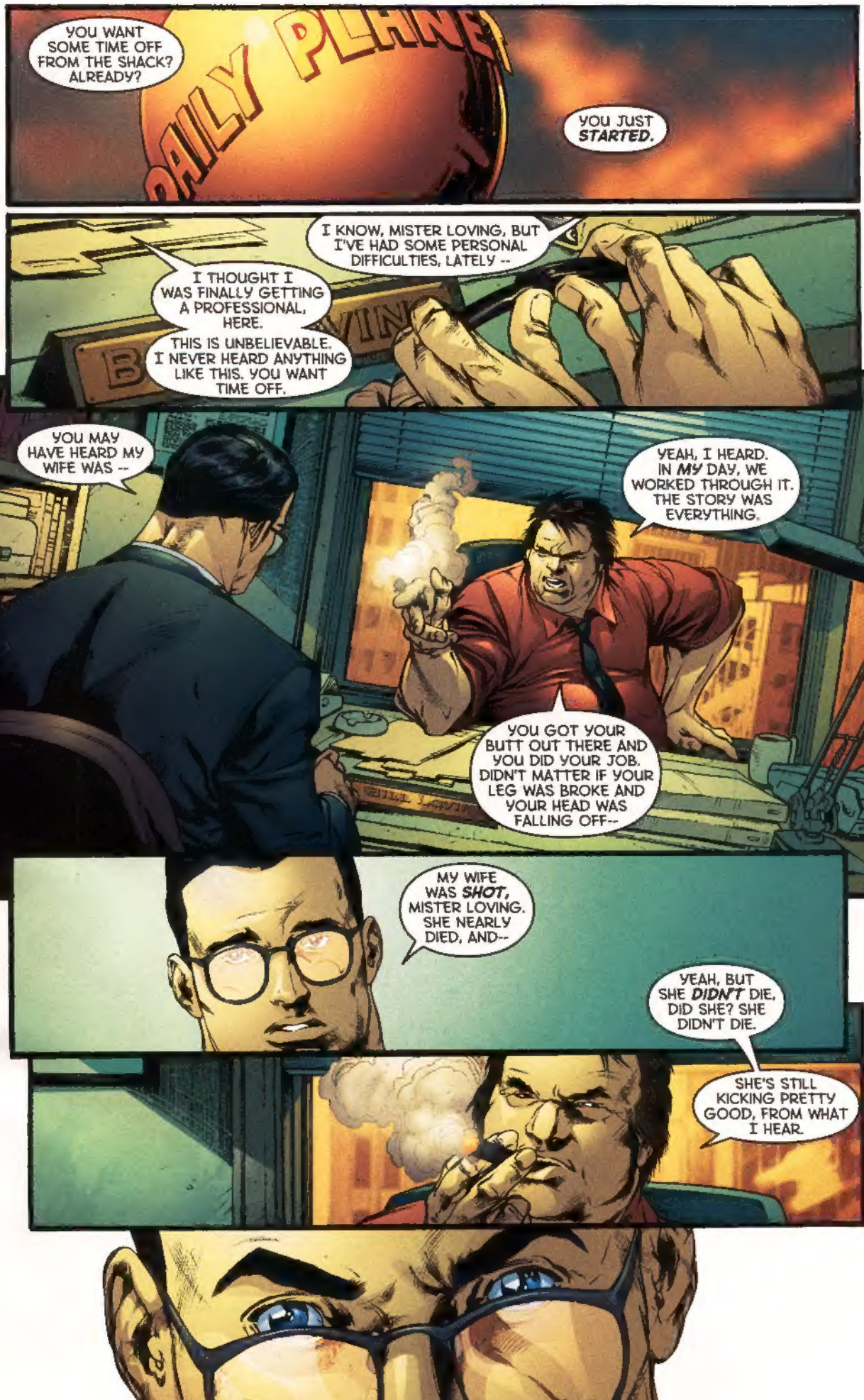

YOU WANT SOME TIME OFF FROM THE SHACK? ALREADY?
YOU JUST STARTED.
I KNOW, MISTER LOVING, BUT I'VE HAD SOME PERSONAL DIFFICULTIES, LATELY --
I THOUGHT I WAS FINALLY GETTING A PROFESSIONAL, HERE.
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE. I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THIS. YOU WANT TIME OFF.
YOU MAY HAVE HEARD MY WIFE WAS --
YEAH, I HEARD. IN MY DAY, WE WORKED THROUGH IT. THE STORY WAS EVERYTHING.
YOU GOT YOUR BUTT OUT THERE AND YOU DID YOUR JOB. DIDN'T MATTER IF YOUR LEG WAS BROKE AND YOUR HEAD WAS FALLING OFF--
MY WIFE WAS SHOT, MISTER LOVING. SHE NEARLY DIED, AND--
YEAH, BUT SHE DIDN'T DIE, DID SHE? SHE DIDN'T DIE.
SHE'S STILL KICKING PRETTY GOOD, FROM WHAT I HEAR.

I'LL GIVE YOU THE TIME OFF.
BUT IN MY DAY -- YOU WORKED *THROUGH* IT.
DAILY PLAN
HE'S STARTING TO STINK.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
RYDER?
JACK?
YOU WANT ME TO CALL SOMEONE FOR YOU?
HNZMA 'ERMAINE DUNZA NA
WE SHOULD CALL SECURITY.
GOT ME.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE PRESSURE OF MY JOB GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH FOR RYDER?
YOUR JOB--?

OH, RIGHT. HE GOT YOUR OFFICE, DIDN'T HE?
WHEN HE'S SLUMMING FROM HIS TELEVISION JOB. YEAH.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
HIS CAMERAMAN WAS KILLED IN THAT ATTACK ON S.T.A.R. LABS A COUPLE DAYS AGO.
HE'S BEEN HERE EVER SINCE, GETTING STINKIER.
YOU'RE KIDDING ME.
I WISH.
I DON'T THINK HE'S EVEN GOTTEN UP TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.
EXCUSE ME, ROBERT.
SHOULDA GODOWN HE SHOULDA — SHOULDA GODDOWN. HNZMA 'ERMAINE DUNZA NA
COME ON, RYDER.
TIME TO GET YOU A BATH.
GET OFFA ME!
GET OFF!

JIMMY, TELL PERRY I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO HIM, AND IF HE WOULD MAKE THE TIME--
SURE. I'LL DO THAT.
AND, UH, CLARK--WHEN YOU GET A MINUTE, WE SHOULD TALK, TOO.
YOU KNOW THEY MADE A SPECIAL POSITION JUST FOR RYDER. HE DIDN'T TAKE YOUR JOB.
OH, YEAH? THEN WHO DID?
LEGGO, YOU CLOWN!
UUUH, THAT WOULD BE ME.

REPO-MAN
PART ONE

CHUCK AUSTEN writer | IVAN REIS penciller | MARK CAMPOS inker

GUY MAJOR colors | COMICRAFT letters

TOM PALMER jr. associate editor | EDDIE BERGANZA editor

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

SORRY I'M LATE. YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED TO JACK RYDER, AND THEN JIMMY--
WEIRD STORY THERE. I HAD TO FLY AROUND A BIT TO CLEAR MY HEAD FROM IT ALL, BUT I --
CLARK?
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT'S WHAT?
IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION? IT'S A PAIR OF WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR. WHY?
WHOSE UNDERWEAR, CLARK?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHOSE UNDERWEAR?" AREN'T THEY --
UH-OH.

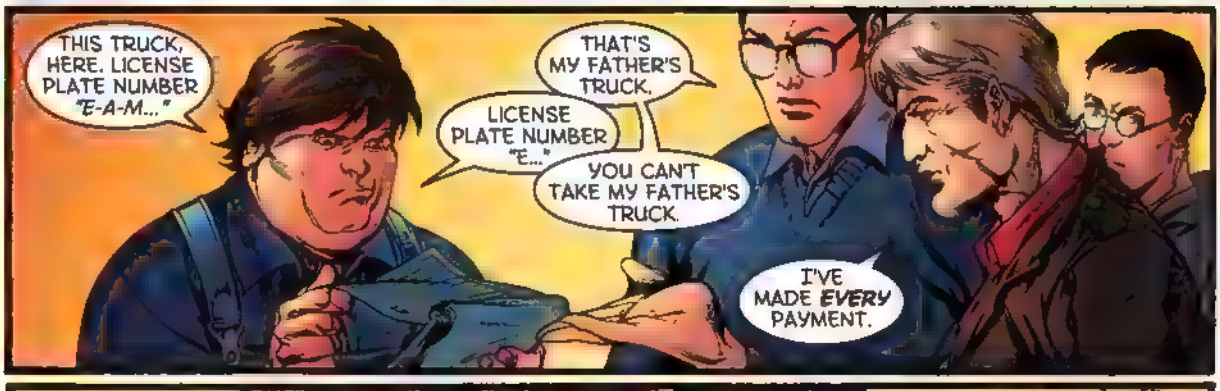
CAN WE PLEASE TALK ABOUT THIS?
NO.
GREAT.
LOIS, THERE'S A PERFECTLY--
I SAID, "NO."
Junction City 25
Salina 57
Smallville 112
SUP.111

HEY, YOU FINALLY MADE IT. LONG DRIVE?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
YEAH, AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD A REAL RELAXING RIDE. YOU GETTIN' GRAY HAIR?
VERY FUNNY, CONNER. GIVE ME A HAND WITH THE WHEELCHAIR AND OUR BAGS, WILL YOU, SMART GUY?
SERIOUSLY, CLARK. YOU'RE LOOKIN' A LITTLE GRAY AT THE TEMPLES, THERE, BIG GUY.
OH, LOIS, SWEETIE. SHOULD YOU HAVE JUST STAYED AT HOME? WE WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD.
I'M FINE, MARTHA. JUST A LITTLE STIFF IS ALL.
LOIS EXPRESS, COMIN' RIGHT UP.
LET ME HELP YOU, DARLIN'.
I IMAGINE YOU MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE COOPED UP IN THAT APARTMENT AFTER A WHILE, TOO.
COOPED UP AND A LITTLE VIOLATED.
LOIS--
WHAT?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH, CLARK DOESN'T WANT ME TELLING YOU ABOUT HOW LANA--

ABOUT HOW I *WHAT*, LOIS?
GUESS WHO AGREED TO JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER?
IN FACT, I'LL BE HERE ALL WEEKEND.
--SO THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST, LOIS...
...WHATEVER IT IS.

ANYONE WANNA PLAY SOME CATCH?
GREAT IDEA!
WHAT?
CLARK!

WELL.
GIVE YOU TWO GIRLS A CHANCE TO CATCH UP, WON'T IT?
UH, EXCUSE ME. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
COLLECTION AGENTS.
WE'RE HERE FOR THE TRUCK.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HERE FOR *WHAT* TRUCK?
LSUP 111.


THIS TRUCK, HERE. LICENSE PLATE NUMBER "E-A-M..."
THAT'S MY FATHER'S TRUCK.
LICENSE PLATE NUMBER "E..."
YOU CAN'T TAKE MY FATHER'S TRUCK.
I'VE MADE *EVERY* PAYMENT.

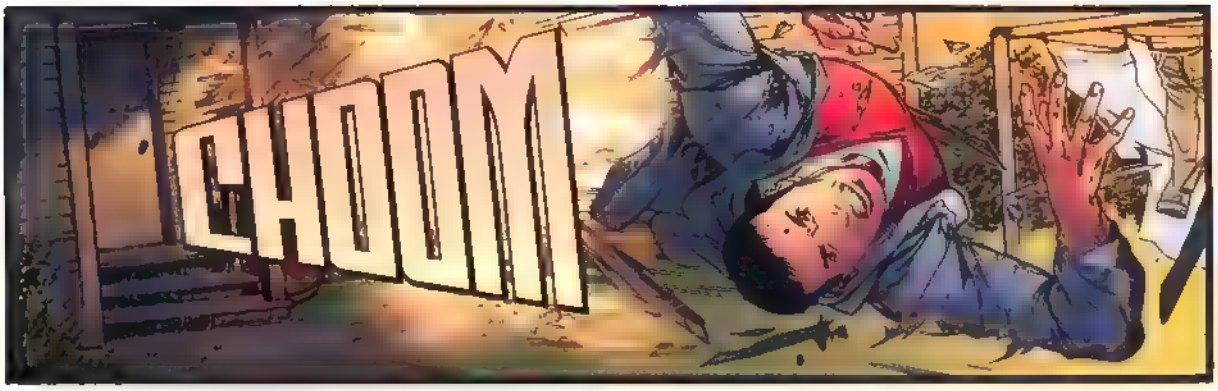
YEAH. THEY *ALL* SAY THAT

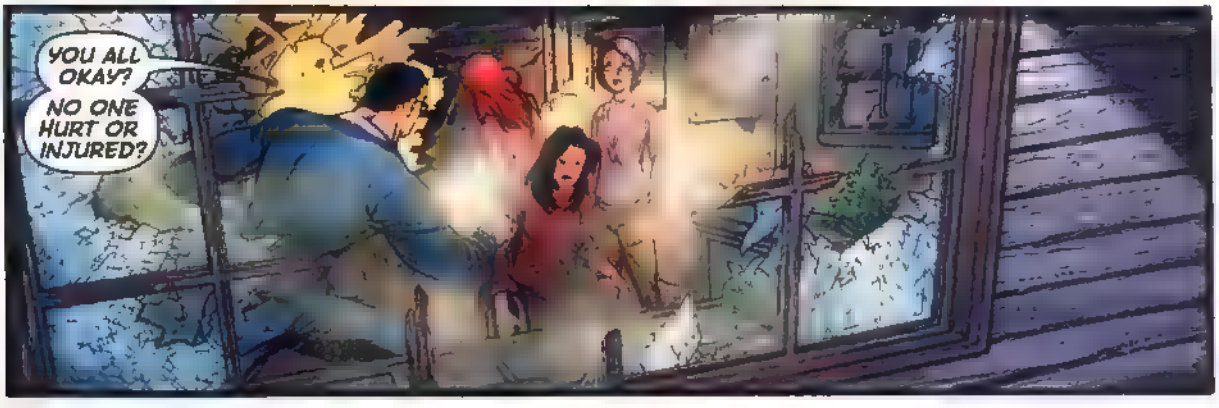
YOU GONNA GIVE US A PROBLEM?
NO PROBLEM. DAD?
WHY DON'T YOU GO GET YOUR CANCELLED CHECKS AND WE'LL SORT THIS WHOLE THING OUT.
YEAH. YEAH, I'LL DO THAT
YOU GENTLEMEN DON'T MIND *WAITING* A MINUTE WHILE MY FATHER GETS HIS CHECKBOOK, *DO* YOU?
NOT AT ALL.
NOT --
-- AT --
-- *ALL.*
YOU RUN RIGHT IN AND GET THAT.
AND WHILE WE WAIT, WOULD YOU MIND SPARING US A GLASS OF ICE WATER?
UNSEASONABLY *WARM* OUT HERE, AIN'T IT? HARDLY FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS.
YOU WANT WATER.
UNSEASONABLY WARM OUT HERE.
OH, OF COURSE, GENTLEMEN OF *COURSE* YOU CAN HAVE WATER.
CONNER, KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.
CLARK? WHAT'S GOING ON?
JONATHAN CAME RUNNING IN AND STARTED TEARING THROUGH DRAWERS, AND..
IT'S NOTHING, MOM, JUST A LITTLE BUREAUCRATIC MIX-UP.

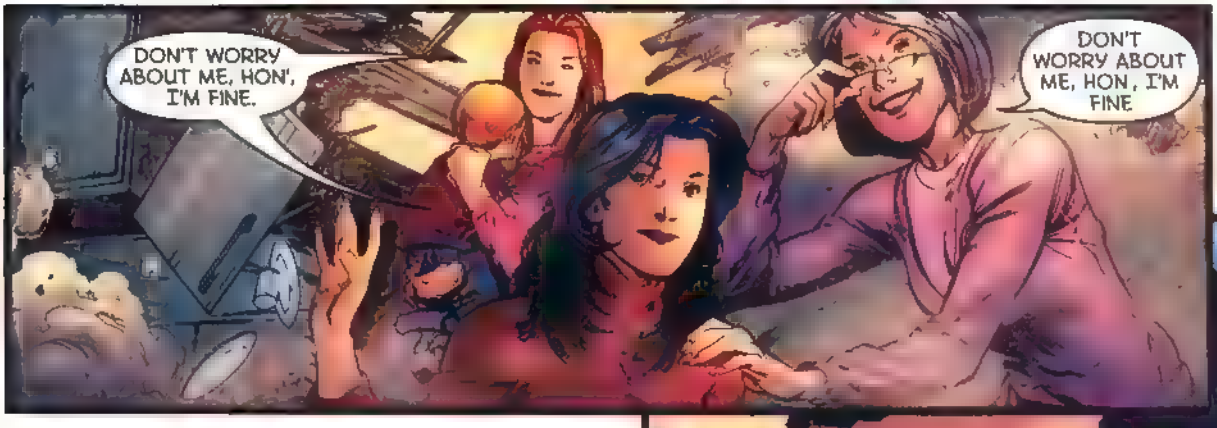
CLINK-CHING
LET HER RIP, DENNY!
HEY!
HEY, YOU SAID YOU'D WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
MOM, YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO BE HAVING ANY MONEY PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW, DO YOU?
WHAT? NO!
WHAT ON EARTH GAVE YOU THAT IDEA?
LET IT GO, PAL THIS IS ALL LEGAL
YOU DON'T WANNA PUSH THIS, "PAL."
BELIEVE ME.
OH, BUT I DO.
I REALLY, REALLY DO

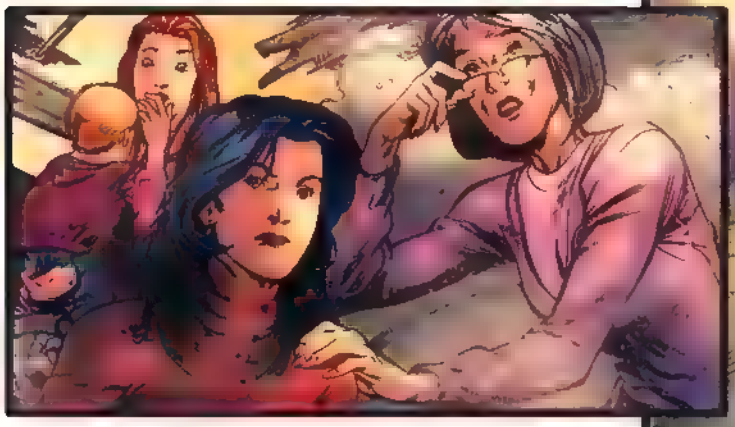
SEE, I LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN "PUSHIN' IT" WITH JOCKS LIKE YOU --
KRAK
SHRICK
-- STUCK-UP SNOBS WITH MORE MUSCLES THAN BRAINS --
-- ALWAYS SHOVIN' ME AROUND --
-- TAKIN' ALL THE GIRLS--
HEY!
-- MAKIN' ME FEEL SMALL --
EVERYONE--

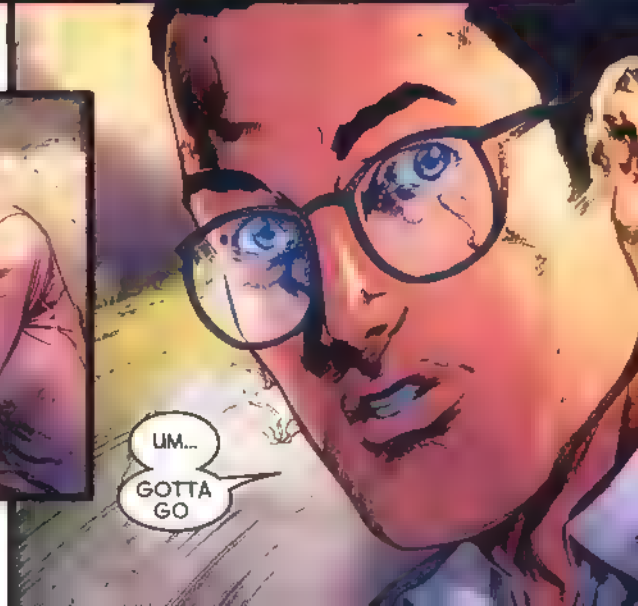
BAM!
-DOWN!


CHOOM


YOU ALL OKAY?
NO ONE HURT OR INJURED?


DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, HON', I'M FINE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, HON, I'M FINE




UM...
GOTTA GO

YOU--
FWEEEEEEEEEE
--ARE--
DEAD?!
KRAK

NO, YOU ARE!
CHOOM
CRACK
WOOOO HOOOOO!
POOMSHHCRRK

TURN AROUND
SUPERMAN! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
KRYPTON. I THOUGHT THAT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE BY NOW
NO, I MEANT--
WOW. YOU REALLY CAME. JUST LIKE THE WHITE-HAIRED GUY SAID.
THIS IS -- LIKE -- THE GREATEST DAY OF MY LIFE. CAN I GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
YOU --
-- WANT MY AUTOGRAPH?

WOULD YOU LIKE THAT PERSONALIZED?
BOOM

CHUFF
NNNNH..
SHORACK

STAY DOWN.
YOU'VE ENDANGERED THE LIVES OF THIS POOR FAMILY.
NOW, I WANT TO KNOW WHO THIS "WHITE-HAIRED MAN" IS, AND THEN YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT FOR THEM.
YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
MAN. THAT WAS AWESOME. WHAT A RUSH!
YOU WAILED ON ME, AND I BARELY FELT IT.
SO NOW, OF COURSE, I GOTTA KNOW:
HOW MUCH ARE YOU GONNA FEEL IT --

-- WHEN I START WAILIN' ON YOU?
TO BE CONTINUED

12.04

IN DEMAND

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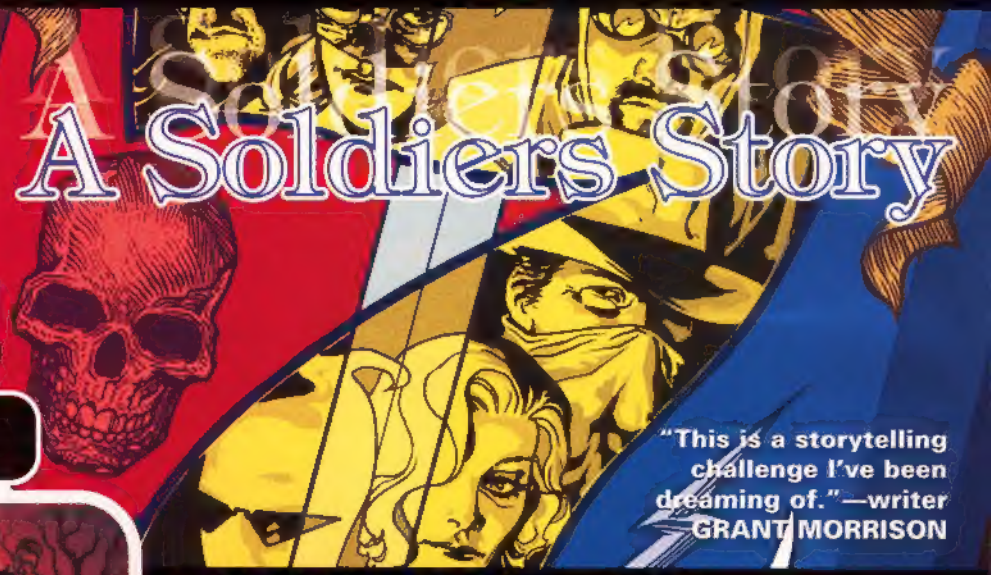
This Month's Cover by...

IAN CHURCHILL

A Soldiers Story



"This is a storytelling challenge I've been dreaming of."—writer GRANT MORRISON

Next Month in...

Action Comics #823

Superman and Superboy are taking a beating from Repo-Man. Can even Krypto save them from a terrible fate? By Austen, Reis, Campos and Major.

SEVEN SOLDIERS #0 (February, 2005):

Comics megastar **Grant Morrison** embarks on his most ambitious project to date – a 30-book epic adventure, composed of two bookend chapters and seven self-contained four-issue miniseries. This historic maxiseries stars seven individuals – among them a knight, a witch, and an escape artist – who never actually meet, but are intrinsically linked as the world's salvation against one of the most terrifying threats it has ever faced. And if that isn't enough motivation to rank SEVEN SOLDIERS at the top of your comics checklist, then add the fact that PROMETHEA's **J.H. Williams** is the first of several artistic legends enlisted for the event of 2005! Hey, sign us up!

The Hot List THIS WEEK

AQUAMAN #25

New series writer John Arcudi joins artists Patrick Gleason and Christian Alamy! Months after the sinking of San Diego, the citizens are coping with their loss in familiar — and deadly — ways. Can Aquaman adapt to stop them?

JSA #68

Part 1 of the 5-part "JSA/JSA," featuring painted covers by Alex Ross on the first two issues! When a villain changes history, wiping out the original JSA, the modern team must restore history before the change becomes permanent.

NIGHTWING #100

An extra-sized spectacular! Ever since Blockbuster's murder, Dick has buckled under unbearable guilt. Now, with "War Games" behind him, Nightwing must mete out justice — and it all begins with the battle everyone's been waiting for: Nightwing vs. Tarantula!

FORGING COLD STEEL

Four years after making a huge splash with his much-lauded JLA hardcover, A LEAGUE OF ONE, **Christopher Moeller** plans to outdo himself with his latest effort. JLA: COLD STEEL, a two-issue Prestige Format series written and fully painted by Moeller, introduces an intergalactic threat that is literally bigger than the entire League! And based on the pages we've seen so far, we can honestly say 2005 will be another gigantic year for the World's Greatest Super-Heroes!

FOWLER BOWS ON GREEN ARROW

Tom Fowler obviously liked working on **Judd Winick's** critically acclaimed CAPER so much that he's decided to join Judd on GREEN ARROW, becoming the series' regular artist with issue #46! Accompanied by GREEN LANTERN embellisher **Rodney Ramos**, Tom's coming on point at just the right moment – the crime kingpin Brick is directing the Emerald Archer's greatest enemies to drive him out of Star City, while the new Speedy pays a visit to Titans Tower! And those are just the first of several sharp story twists that will have fans quivering with anticipation this January!

THE (BOY) WONDER YEAR

We all know that before he became Nightwing, Dick Grayson fought crime as the original Robin, the Boy Wonder. But RICHARD DRAGON's **Chuck Dixon** and **Scott McDaniel**, along with BATGIRL: YEAR ONE co-writer **Scott Beatty**, make their long-awaited return to NIGHTWING this January with a six-part biweekly arc that reveals the events which prompted Batman's first partner to strike out on his own. From issues #101-106, look for the Dark Knight, Superman, the then-new Teen Titans, and a Who's Who of classic Bat-villains to make for what's sure to be an electrifying "Nightwing: Year One"! And hey, while we're on the subject of "Year One" stories…

LAUGHING MATTERS

CATWOMAN scribe **Ed Brubaker** and JUSTICE LEAGUE ELITE-ist **Doug Mahnke** are producing a "tour de farce" that's anything but funny: a Prestige Format one-shot that bridges the gap between Batman's earliest confrontations with the Joker and the oh-so-colorful Red Hood! You're bound to be in good humor this February for BATMAN: THE MAN WHO LAUGHS!

– your MOLE at 1700

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